

A Wall Comes Down

Trace how German reunification signaled a changing Europe.

SS6H3.c "Explain how German reunification contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union and led to the end of the Cold War."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about German reunification. Circle two details that show weaker Soviet control, then number three marked details to show a cause-to-result chain leading toward the end of the Cold War.

Germany Reunites, Soviet Power Fades

- ① After World War II, Germany was divided into democratic West Germany and communist East Germany. The Berlin Wall became a powerful symbol of that division. In 1989, East Germans held protests demanding freer elections and the right to travel. The East German government opened the Berlin Wall in November. Communist rule in East Germany soon ended. After negotiations among German leaders and the four former occupying powers, East and West Germany reunified as one country on October 3, 1990.
- ② Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev chose not to send Soviet troops to stop the East German protests. This was different from earlier Soviet actions in Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union accepted reunification after agreements were reached. Germany remained in NATO, while Soviet troops would leave eastern Germany. The agreements showed that the Soviet government could no longer control Eastern European countries as it had before. This loss of control weakened Soviet power and encouraged other changes.
- ③ German reunification did not by itself cause the Soviet Union to collapse. Economic problems, demands for freedom, and independence movements inside Soviet republics also weakened it. Still, reunification was important because it proved that Soviet control over Eastern Europe was ending. Communist governments across the region fell, and the Warsaw Pact dissolved in 1991. Later that year, the Soviet Union broke apart. With Germany no longer divided and the Soviet Union gone, the Cold War between the rival blocs ended.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What changes in East Germany made reunification possible?

2 How did Gorbachev's response to the East German protests help reunification happen?

3 What did the reunification agreements show about Soviet control in Eastern Europe?

4 How did German reunification contribute to the end of the Cold War?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences that explain a cause-to-result chain from the opening of the Berlin Wall to the end of the Cold War. Include one limit on Soviet power and explain why reunification was important but not the only cause of the Soviet collapse.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details about German reunification. Circle two details that show weaker Soviet control, then number three marked details to show a cause-to-result chain leading toward the end of the Cold War. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What changes in East Germany made reunification possible?	East Germans protested, the Berlin Wall opened, and communist rule in East Germany ended.
2	How did Gorbachev's response to the East German protests help reunification happen?	He did not send Soviet troops to stop the protests, allowing change in East Germany to continue.
3	What did the reunification agreements show about Soviet control in Eastern Europe?	They showed that the Soviet government could no longer control Eastern European countries as it had before.
4	How did German reunification contribute to the end of the Cold War?	It showed that Soviet control over Eastern Europe was ending. Germany was no longer divided, and the Soviet Union later broke apart, ending the Cold War between the rival blocs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the Berlin Wall opened, communist rule in East Germany ended, making reunification possible. Gorbachev did not use Soviet troops to stop the protests, showing that Soviet control in Eastern Europe was weakening. Reunification was not the only cause of the Soviet collapse, but it helped show that the Cold War division of Europe was ending.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. Students should identify reunification as evidence of weakening Soviet control, while recognizing that other problems and independence movements also contributed to the Soviet collapse.